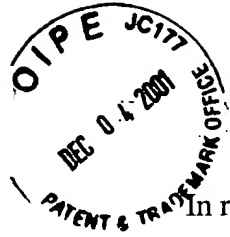


#10/And+a~1c  
T. McBeth-Brown  
12/15/01

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2171

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of:

Marion D. SKEEN

Serial No. 09/206,663

Filed: December 7, 1998

For: REAL-TIME DECISION SUPPORT  
SYSTEM

)

) Group Art Unit: 2171

) Examiner: C. Rones

)

) Date: December 3, 2001

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

OK to  
Enter  
Cdl 8-8-02

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
DEC 06 2001  
Technology Center 2100

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated July 3, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 28, paragraph 3, beginning with "Once the constraint", replace with the following paragraph:

--Once the constraint index is constructed for a given event type, the decision tree for each query in the index's query set is modified to remove constraints that are effectively tested by the constraint index. The resulting "modified decision tree" for that query is now specific to the given event type. Since a query [many] may be relevant to multiple event types, a query may as a consequence have multiple associated modified decision trees, one for each event type for which it is relevant.--

A